(b) As per NASSCOM, they have worked with lawyers from various countries to examine Indian legal framework and compare it with cyber laws in US and EU.

(c) As a Member of the Expert Committee, NASSCOM has submitted its recommendations to the Committee.

(d) and (e) The Expert Committee is examining the inputs received from NASSCOM and stake holders.

Expansion of telecom network

352. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has crossed 100 million telephone mark to become the fifth largest telecom network in the world after China, US Japan and Germany;

(b) whether India targeted 250 million phone connections by 2007;

(c) whether potential to expand telecom network in India is immense as its teledensity is currently pegged at only about 9% against over 100% in US, Japan and Germany; and

(d) if so, the total target set up by Government on phone connections and whether all the villages would be covered by phone upto 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. the number of telephones in India as on 30th June , 2005 is 103.29 millions.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The target set up by the Government for telephones is 250 millions by 2007. The remaining village with more than 100 population are to be provided with Village Public telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007.